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Virginia Winter Wheat Production down 33 percent from 2015

RICHMOND, Va. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released its Small Grains Summary Report today from the Small Grains Production Survey conducted earlier this month.

“This year’s winter wheat crop experienced a cold, wet spring in some areas in the state,” said Herman Ellison, Virginia state statistician. “The wheat yield is the lowest since 2010 when yield was estimated at 51 bushels per acre.”

Virginia farmers harvested 9.28 million bushels of winter wheat during the summer of 2016, according to the Virginia Field Office of USDA’S National Agricultural Statistics Service. This was down 33 percent from the previous year and down 4 percent from the August forecast. Yield is estimated at 53 bushels per acre, down 13 bushels from 2015 and down 2 bushels from the August forecast. Farmers seeded 210,000 acres last fall, down 50,000 acres from 2015. Area harvested for grain totaled 175,000 acres. Acres for other uses totaled 35,000 acres.

Barley production for Virginia is estimated at 804,000 bushels, down 33 percent from the 2015 total. Average yield per acre, at 67 bushels, is down 8 bushels from the previous year. Producers seeded 33,000 acres in 2016, down 13,000 acres from last year. Harvested area, at 12,000 acres, is down 4,000 acres from 2015.

“Due to freeze damage some Virginia barley growers abandoned fields this year,” Ellison said. “The average barley yield is estimated the same as 2010 when the yield was estimated at 67 bushels per acre.”

Production of all wheat for the U.S. totaled 2.31 billion bushels, up 12 percent from 2015. Grain area harvested totaled 43.9 million acres, down 7 percent from the previous year. The United States yield is estimated at 52.6 bushels per acre, up 9 bushels from last year. The levels of production and changes from 2015 by type are winter wheat, 1.67 billion bushels, up 22 percent; other spring wheat, 534 million bushels, down 11 percent, and durum wheat, 104 million bushels, up 24 percent.

Barley production for the United States is estimated at 199 million bushels, down 9 percent from the revised 2015 total. Average yield per acre, at 77.9 bushels, is up 8.8 bushels from the previous year. Producers seeded 3.05 million acres in 2016, down 16 percent from last year. Harvested area, at 2.56 million acres, is down 19 percent from 2015.